

SHSS | Newsletter

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UNIC | SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

SHSS
NEWSLETTER

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ZEALOS STUDIES IN THE HUMANITIES, SOCIAL SCIENCES, ARTS AND DESIGN

The SHSS Academic Journal

Zealos: Studies in the Humanities, Social Sciences, Arts & Design is an annual peer-reviewed and open-access journal published by the School of Humanities and Social Sciences of the University of Nicosia.

Zealos is a fully open access journal issued annually. Each volume is published electronically as a PDF file. All papers are available on the Internet to all users immediately upon publication and free of charge, according to the Creative Commons CC BY-NC-ND 4.0. Under this license, authors agree that others can copy and distribute the article for free as long as appropriate credit is given and the article is not modified and not used for commercial purposes.

Aims & Scope

The journal's aim is to showcase empirical, theoretical and practice-based research work by scholars and practitioners in the humanities, social sciences, arts and design. *Zealos* intends to leave its mark on these fields through the publication of research papers, essays and creative work, conference and book reviews. By taking a multi-disciplinary perspective, we hope to contribute to both local and international literature and showcase some of the work conducted by academics and practitioners. The journal particularly welcomes submissions on issues related to Cyprus. Special Issues focusing on a specific theme acting as a connecting point between the various disciplines are also planned. Papers in English and Greek will be accepted. All manuscripts will be double-blind peer-reviewed by two experts in the area of the submission.

For more information shss.zealos@unic.ac.cy

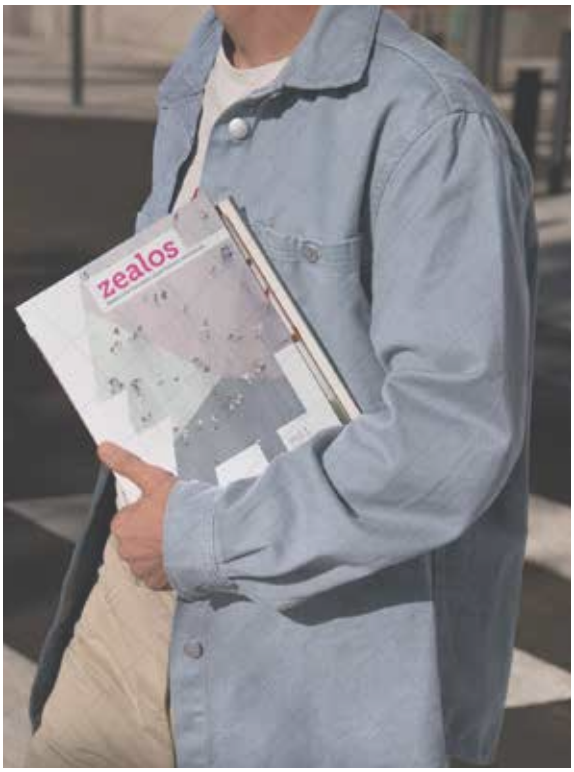
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EDITORIAL



UNIC

SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES
AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the 11th edition of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences Newsletter, published at the end of another productive and inspiring academic year. As we reflect on 2025–2026, we celebrate the achievements of our students, faculty, researchers, alumni, and partners whose dedication continues to enrich the academic life of our School and advance our School's mission.

This edition highlights scholarly, creative, and community-engaged activities across our Departments. The Department of Languages and Literature showcases important achievements in language education, linguistics, artificial intelligence, international collaborations, publications, and doctoral research. The Department of Social Sciences presents initiatives that promote inclusion, mentoring, and community engagement, alongside significant developments in psychology and child and adolescent protection. The Department of Design and Multimedia demonstrates the remarkable creativity of our students and faculty through exhibitions, international collaborations, publications, workshops, and innovative design practices. The Department of Communications continues to explore emerging technologies and their impact on journalism, media, and public communication, fostering critical dialogue on the future of the field.

This year has also been particularly significant for the growth of the University through UNIC Athens, which continues to expand educational opportunities in Greece. We are especially pleased to highlight the launch of the four-year BSc Psychology programme at UNIC Athens. This development reflects our commitment to extending the reach and impact of Psychology education and research beyond Cyprus while maintaining the high academic standards that define the University of Nicosia.

A defining moment of the year was the Graduation Ceremony of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, held on 26 June 2026. It was a privilege to celebrate the accomplishments of our graduates as they concluded an important chapter in their lives and prepared to embark on new professional and personal journeys. We are immensely proud of each and every one of them and look forward to witnessing their future contributions to society.

As we conclude this academic year, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all colleagues, students, staff, alumni, and collaborators who contribute to the continued success of our School.

I wish you all a restful, enjoyable, and well-deserved summer break. We look forward to welcoming you back in the new academic year with fresh energy, new ideas, and continued commitment to excellence in teaching, research, creativity, and service.

With best wishes,

Professor Ioulia Papageorgi
SHSS Newsletter Editor
Dean of School

FACULTY EVENTS, PUBLICATIONS AND SCHOLARLY ACTIVITIES

UNIC Hosts the Erasmus+ ENLACED Transnational Teacher Training Workshop, with the participation of the Department of Languages and Literature



The Department of Languages and Literature participated in the Transnational Teacher Training Workshop of the Erasmus+ project ENLACED (Digitally-Enhanced Foreign Language Education for Active European Citizenship and Democratic Culture), held at the University of Nicosia from 20 to 22 January 2026, together with partner institutions from Bulgaria, Romania, and Ukraine.

The Department was represented by Dr Georgios Georgiou and Dr Aretousa Giannakou, while the University of Nicosia team also included Dr Stelios Stylianou (Director, Gnosis Center) and Dr Styliani Papadopoulou (Researcher at Gnosis). During the workshop, the UNIC team presented Work Package 4, for which it is responsible, and introduced the methodological framework and training approach for the project's web platform supporting language learning through democratic values. The opening remarks were delivered by Prof. Rossie Artemis, Head of the Department of Languages and Literature.

Successful PhD theses – Department of Languages and Literature

Dr Erli Nan successfully defended her thesis on the 3rd of June 2026 and has been awarded her PhD, pending the completion of minor revisions. Her thesis titled "Motivational Strategies in Chinese University EFL Classrooms: A Cyclical Action Research on the Development of Ideal English Self", explores motivational practices in Chinese university EFL classrooms and makes a valuable contribution to the field of language education and teacher development.

The evaluators offered very positive comments and noted that this achievement is well deserved.



Special thanks go to the external evaluator, Dr Nicola Halenko, and the internal evaluator, Dr Antroulla Papakyriakou. We are also grateful to Dr Christine Savvidou, who chaired the viva, as well as to the supervisory committee, Dr Georgios Georgiou, Prof. Maria-Economidou Kogetsidis, Dr Stavroula Tsiplakou.

Warm congratulations to Erli. We wish her happiness, good health, and every success in her future academic endeavours!

Επιτυχής ολοκλήρωση της ημερίδας για την ελληνική ως δεύτερη/ξένη γλώσσα στην Πάτρα

Με περισσότερες από 100 συμμετοχές και έντονο επιστημονικό ενδιαφέρον πραγματοποιήθηκε με επιτυχία η ημερίδα με θέμα: «Διδασκαλία και εκμάθηση της νέας ελληνικής ως δεύτερης/ξένης γλώσσας: θεωρητικές προοπτικές και πρακτικές προσεγγίσεις».

Η ημερίδα πραγματοποιήθηκε στις 27 Μαΐου 2026 στην Πάτρα και συνδιοργανώθηκε από το Πανεπιστήμιο Λευκωσίας (Τμήμα Γλωσσών και Λογοτεχνίας και Τμήμα Εξ Αποστάσεως Εκπαίδευσης) και το Πανεπιστήμιο Πατρών (Τμήμα Φιλολογίας).

Κατά τη διάρκεια της ημερίδας, παρουσιάστηκαν σύγχρονες θεωρητικές και διδακτικές προσεγγίσεις που αφορούν τη διδασκαλία της νέας ελληνικής ως δεύτερης/ξένης γλώσσας, με έμφαση σε ζητήματα γλωσσολογικής γνώσης, γλωσσικής τυπολογίας, ανατροφοδότησης λάθους, προφοράς, αξιοποίησης της τεχνολογίας και εφαρμογών τεχνητής νοημοσύνης στη γλωσσική εκπαίδευση.

Οι εισηγήσεις διακεκριμένων ακαδημαϊκών και ερευνη-



τών/ερευνητριών καθώς και οι συζητήσεις ανέδειξαν τη σημασία της σύνδεσης θεωρίας και εκπαιδευτικής πράξης, καθώς και την ανάγκη ανάπτυξης καινοτόμων και τεκμηριωμένων πρακτικών διδασκαλίας που ανταποκρίνονται στις απαιτήσεις των σύγχρονων πολυγλωσσικών και διαπολιτισμικών μαθησιακών περιβαλλόντων.

Οι συμμετέχοντες/συμμετέχουσες στην ημερίδα είχαν την ευκαιρία να παρακολουθήσουν σχετικές παρουσιάσεις, να συζητήσουν και να υποβάλουν ερωτήματα στους/στις ομιλητές/ομιλήτριες σχετικά με τις προκλήσεις και τις προοπτικές της διδασκαλίας της ελληνικής ως δεύτερης/ξένης γλώσσας στη σύγχρονη εποχή.

Χαιρετισμούς απηύθυναν ο Καθηγητής Χρήστος Μπούρας, Πρύτανης του Πανεπιστημίου Πατρών, ο Καθηγητής Γιώργος Ι. Ξυδόπουλος, Καθηγητής Γλωσσολογίας του Τμήματος Φιλολογίας και Κοσμήτορας της Σχολής Ανθρωπιστικών και Κοινωνικών Επιστημών του Πανεπιστημίου Πατρών, και ο Καθηγητής Παναγιώτης Αγγελίδης, Διευθυντής της Έδρας UNESCO του Πανεπιστημίου Λευκωσίας.

Την ημερίδα συντόνισαν ο Δρ Γιώργος Π. Γεωργίου, Επίκουρος Καθηγητής Γλωσσολογίας και Συντονιστής του προγράμματος «Διδασκαλία της Ελληνικής ως Δεύτερης/Ξένης Γλώσσας» στο Πανεπιστήμιο Λευκωσίας, η Δρ Αντρούλλα Παπακυριακού, Αναπληρώτρια Καθηγήτρια Γλωσσολογίας του Πανεπιστημίου Λευκωσίας και η Δρ Ζαφειρούλα Παπαδοπούλου, Μέλος ΕΔΙΠ του Πανεπιστημίου Πατρών, και Συνεργαζόμενο Εκπαιδευτικό Προσωπικό του Πανεπιστημίου Λευκωσίας.

Στον πιο κάτω σύνδεσμο, μπορείτε να παρακολουθήσετε την ημερίδα: (Youtube link)

Κατά τη διάρκεια της ημερίδας, έγινε εκτενής αναφορά στο Εξ Αποστάσεως Διαπανεπιστημιακό Μεταπτυχιακό Πρόγραμμα στη Διδασκαλία της Ελληνικής ως Δεύτερης/Ξένης Γλώσσας, το οποίο προσφέρεται από το Πανεπιστήμιο Λευκωσίας σε συνεργασία με το Πανεπιστήμιο Πατρών.

FACULTY PUBLICATIONS

Professor Rossie Artemis

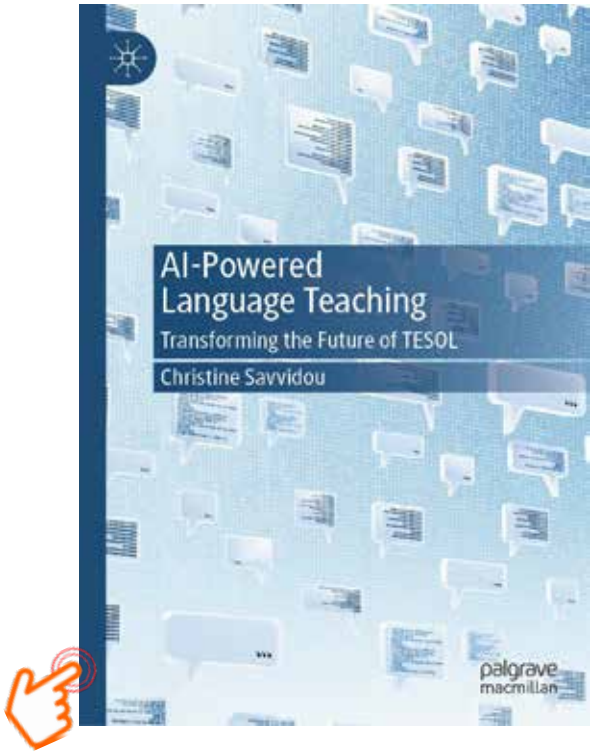
Prof. Rossie Artemis from the Department of Languages and Literature was a guest Editor of two special journal issues which were published in early 2026. The first one, on the topic of unnatural structures, for *JNT: Journal of Narrative Theory*, issue 55.3, was published in mid-January. Unnatural narratology investigates the ways in which texts –and, increasingly today, films, computer games, and digital artifacts– depart from the experiential and ontological parameters of the actual world to narrate storyworlds which defy the mimetic turn to various degrees. In doing so, unnatural narratology compels the reader to reconsider not only how narratives can be told, but what counts as "narrative" at all. The journal contributors explored impossible temporalities, paradoxical characters, atypical storyworlds, and anti-mimetic forms of storytelling that refuse easy incorporation into realist frameworks. Rather than treating the unnatural as a deviation from normativity, the papers in this special issue collectively demonstrate how such narrative experiments bring forth the structures of narrative cognition, genre formation, and readerly engagement.

The second special issue, on the topic of imagination, for *Angelaki: Journal of the Theoretical Humanities*, 31.1, brought together academics from the fields of philosophy, literature, and cultural studies. The contributors engaged with the works of modern European thinkers and, at the same time, with important re-interpretations which the 20th and 21st-centuries contribute to the analysis of the role of imagination in the humanities and the production of cultural artefacts at large. Far from being confined to the traditional domain of aesthetics, imagination emerges as a core faculty that reshapes metaphysics, epistemology, and practical philosophy. At the same time, the special issue highlights the significance of imagination for a range of interconnected disciplines within the humanities and the social sciences. Taken together, these perspectives attest to the enduring philosophical urgency of imagination as a concept that mediates between thought and experience, theory and practice, individual subjectivity and collective life.

Dr Christine Savvidou

AI-Powered Language Teaching: Transforming the Future of TESOL | Palgrave Macmillan
https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-032-14502-4

Dr Christine Savvidou has published a new monograph with Palgrave Macmillan (February 2026) exploring how generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) is reshaping TESOL and second language education. The book provides a comprehensive, research-informed analysis of



GenAI's pedagogical, ethical, and institutional implications.

The volume introduces the core principles underpinning generative AI and situates these developments within the historical evolution of TESOL theories and methodologies. It demonstrates how AI-driven tools, including virtual tutors, adaptive language learning platforms, and automated assessment systems, intersect with contemporary communicative and learner-centred approaches. Drawing on empirical research and case studies, the book identifies evidence-based practices for responsible and sustainable integration in educational settings.

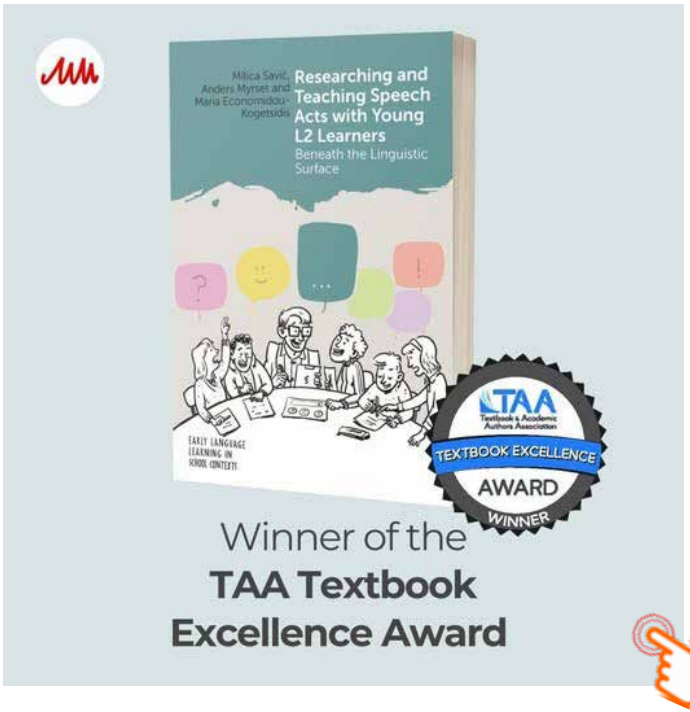
Key themes include data privacy, algorithmic bias, equity of access, academic integrity, and the evolving role of teachers in AI-enhanced classrooms. The publication highlights the Department of Languages and Literature's commitment to research-led innovation in higher education.

Online Launch of AI-Powered Language Teaching: Transforming the Future of TESOL

On April 23rd, 2026, the Department of Languages and Literature successfully hosted the online launch of *AI-Powered Language Teaching: Transforming the Future of TESOL* (Palgrave Macmillan) authored by Christine Savvidou. The event was well attended by students, language teachers, researchers, and educators from different international contexts.

The event opened with a guest presentation by Georgios P. Georgiou on identifying AI-generated writing and the ethical use of AI in higher education. This was followed by a presentation by the author exploring the pedagogical and ethical implications of generative AI in TESOL and language education.

The session concluded with an engaging discussion on the future of AI in language teaching and learning.



Professor Maria Economidou-Kogetsidis

TAA TEXTBOOK EXCELLENCE AWARD

Book: *Researching and Teaching Speech Acts with Young L2 Learners: Beneath the Linguistic Surface, Multilingual Matters*

Authors: Savic, M; Myrset, A, Economidou-Kogetsidis, M. (2026)

A recent publication co-authored by Professor Maria Economidou-Kogetsidis (Department of Languages and Literature), together with Milica Savić and Anders Myrset (University of Stavanger), has received a 2026 Textbook Excellence Award from the Textbook & Academic Authors Association. The book, *Researching and Teaching Speech Acts with Young L2 Learners: Beneath the Linguistic Surface*, brings together research and practical insights on how young language learners develop the ability to use language appropriately in context. The award recognises outstanding academic textbooks that make a meaningful contribution to teaching and learning.

Reviews

- "This transformative work masterfully bridges the gap between research and the classroom, empowering young learners as active social actors and experts in their own

communicative lives. By exploring the complexities that lie 'beneath the linguistic surface,' the authors provide an essential and innovative roadmap for fostering pragmatic agency in the next generation of multilingual communicators."
Textbook & Academic Authors Association, 2026 Textbook Excellence Award Judges' Quote

- "This groundbreaking volume skilfully ties together theory, research, and pedagogical insights in L2 pragmatics, bringing systematic attention to young learners as an increasingly important population. The approach to L2 pragmatics is fresh, dynamic, and offers a clear vision of successful teaching and research that will appeal to advanced students and language teachers alike. A landmark contribution to the field."

Troy McConachy, University of New South Wales, Australia

- "This long-awaited coursebook addresses a hitherto under-represented area in most Applied Linguistics, teacher education and TESOL programs. The detailed presentation of various research methods suitable for this age group will equip both novice and experienced researchers with invaluable tools for academic work in this innovative and growing field."

Karen Glaser, Leipzig University, Germany

Dr Georgios (George) Georgiou



Publications, Journals, Webinars

1. Georgiou, G. P. (2026). What distinguishes AI-generated from human writing? A rapid review of the literature. *Big Data and Cognitive Computing*, 10(2), 55. doi: 10.3390/bdcc10020055
The paper rapidly reviews empirical studies to identify families of cues reported to distinguish AI-generated from human-authored writing and examines how stable those cues are across genres, lengths, and revision/post-editing conditions. The findings converge on five cue families (surface, discourse/pragmatic, epistemic/content, predictability/probabilistic, provenance) and suggest there is no single reliable marker; effective detection needs layered, context-aware approaches that remain robust to paraphrasing and human editing.

2. Georgiou, G. P. (2026). Envisioning the futures of language education in the era of artificial intelligence. *Journal of Futures Studies*. https://jfsdigital.org/envisioning-the-futures-of-language-education-in-the-era-of-artificial-intelligence/
The article applies Dator's Four Futures (Continued Growth, Collapse, Discipline, Transformation) to synthesize plausible futures for language education under AI across high-impact areas. By laying out contrasting scenario pathways, it frames AI in language education as a governance-and-design problem, underscoring the need for anticipatory policy, curriculum/assessment redesign, and deliberate redefinition of educator roles.

3. Georgiou, G. P. (2026). Key features to distinguish between human- and AI-generated texts: Perspectives from university professors. *AI in Education*, 2(1), 2. doi: 10.3390/aieduc2010002
The study elicits and ranks the textual features university professors report using to identify AI-generated writing, combining interviews to surface cues and a follow-up ranking of their perceived importance. The results inform academic integrity practice and staff development by translating practitioner detection heuristics into explicit criteria, while also implying that institutions should reduce overreliance on subjective detection and instead redesign assessments and strengthen AI literacy.

4. Georgiou, G. P. (2025). Enhancing developmental language disorder identification with artificial intelligence: Development of an explainable screening app using real and synthetic data. *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*. doi: 10.1007/s10803-025-07176-1
The paper evaluates key linguistic markers distinguishing children with DLD from typically developing peers and uses them to develop an explainable AI screening app, leveraging both real and synthetically generated data to train/validate the model. It points to a route for more scalable, interpretable, and clinically aligned screening support, while emphasizing the importance of external validation and careful handling of synthetic-data and deployment risks in real educational/clinical settings.

5. Georgiou, G. P. (2026). "Better ear" self-perception aligns with audiometry: Insights from machine-learning modeling. *Noise & Health*, 28(130), 250–256. doi: 10.4103/nah.nah_248_25
The study examines whether individuals' self-perception of their "better ear" corresponds to objective audiometric findings, using machine-learning modeling to analyze the

relationship between subjective judgments and hearing test data. The results suggest that self-reported better-ear perception can meaningfully align with audiometric measures, highlighting the potential of AI-based modeling to support more nuanced interpretation of hearing-related self-assessments in clinical practice.

6. Georgiou, G. P. (2026). An AI-assisted framework for the ethical use of machine learning in healthcare. *International Journal of Medical Informatics*, 213, 106364. doi: 10.1016/j.ijmedinf.2026.106364
The paper proposes an AI-assisted framework to guide the ethical design, implementation, and evaluation of machine-learning applications in healthcare, addressing issues such as fairness, transparency, accountability, privacy, and human oversight. It offers a structured approach for aligning technical innovation with ethical and clinical requirements, emphasizing that trustworthy AI in healthcare depends not only on model performance but also on governance, explainability, and responsible deployment.

7. Georgiou, G. P. (2026). Developments in acoustic phonetic research. *Acoustics*, 8(1), 19. doi: 10.3390/acoustics8010019
This special issue editorial reviews recent developments in acoustic phonetic research, highlighting methodological advances, emerging analytical tools, and new directions in the study of speech production and acoustic variation. It shows how the field is being reshaped by technological progress and interdisciplinary approaches, while underscoring the continued importance of linking acoustic analysis to broader theoretical, clinical, and applied questions about speech and communication.

8. Georgiou, G. P. (2026). Machine Learning in Education. *Algorithms*, 19(6), 441.
This is a narrative review of machine learning in education. It traces the historical development of ML in educational contexts and discusses major applications such as personalized learning, automated assessment, student-performance prediction, learning analytics, intelligent tutoring, and generative AI. It also emphasizes key challenges, including bias, privacy, transparency, overreliance on automation, and the need for responsible, teacher-informed implementation.

9. Georgiou, G. P. (2026). Artificial intelligence in pronunciation teaching: Use and beliefs of foreign language teachers. Journal of Education for Teaching. doi: 10.1080/02607476.2026.2676279
This study examines how 117 in-service EFL teachers in Cyprus use AI for pronunciation teaching and how their demographic/professional characteristics relate to their beliefs about AI. Teachers generally reported stronger agreement with AI's effectiveness and willingness to adopt it than with concerns about its drawbacks. AI use was higher among teachers in higher/adult education and among those with more training; more frequent AI users viewed it as more effective, while better-trained teachers expressed fewer concerns.

II. WEBINAR – Scenarios for the Future of Language Education in the Era of Artificial Intelligence



The online seminar titled "Scenarios for the Future of Language Education in the Era of Artificial Intelligence," held on Tuesday, 17 March 2026, from 19:00 to 20:00, and organized by the Department of Languages and Literature of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences at the University of Nicosia, was a great success.

The speaker was Dr Georgios P. Georgiou, Assistant Professor of Linguistics at the University of Nicosia.

The seminar attracted more than 300 participants in total, confirming the strong public interest in developments in the field of artificial intelligence and language education. During the event, a highly constructive dialogue developed around the topic, with participants sharing very interesting views, concerns, and suggestions.





Scholarship Competition for the Distance Learning MA in TESOL

The MA TESOL Distance Learning Programme at the University of Nicosia, Department of Languages and Literature, invites prospective students to participate in the Future Language Educators Scholarship Competition



Σπούδασε
Διδασκαλία της Ελληνικής ως Δεύτερης/Ξένης Γλώσσας Εξ Αποστάσεως

ΝΕΟ | Κοινό Πρόγραμμα με το Πανεπιστήμιο Πατρών

Τίτλος σπουδών αυτόματα αναγνωρισμένος από το Ελληνικό Δημόσιο

FACULTY EVENTS, PUBLICATIONS AND SCHOLARLY ACTIVITIES



Ιουλία Παπαγεώργη και Νίκος Γεωργίου
Βασικές έννοιες στη γνωστική ψυχολογία. Νόηση, μάθηση και συμπεριφορά (Εκδόσεις Πεδίο, 2025)

Μια ιδιαίτερα τιμητική διάκριση πέτυχαν οι καθηγητές Δρ Νίκος Γεωργίου, Δρ. Αγνή Στυλιανού-Γεωργίου και Καθ. Ιουλία Παπαγεώργη, καθώς το βιβλίο τους *Βασικές έννοιες στη γνωστική ψυχολογία. Νόηση, μάθηση και συμπεριφορά* (Εκδόσεις Πεδίο, 2025) ήταν υποψήφιο στα Βραβεία Βιβλίου Public 2026 στην κατηγορία Ελληνικό Non-Fiction.
Ο συλλογικός αυτός τόμος επιχειρεί να φωτίσει υπό το πρίσμα της γνωστικής ψυχολογίας τις διάφορες πτυχές που συνθέτουν τα πολύπλοκα φαινόμενα της ανθρώπινης νόησης, μάθησης και συμπεριφοράς. Εξετάζει κεντρικές λειτουργίες του ανθρώπινου γνωστικού συστήματος όπως η προσοχή, η αντίληψη, η μνήμη και η γλώσσα, γνωστικές διαδικασίες όπως η επίλυση προβλημάτων, η λήψη αποφάσεων, η μάθηση, η γνώση, η αυτορρύθμιση, καθώς και ζητήματα που αφορούν την ανάπτυξη της νόησης.
Τα κεφάλαια εξηγούν βασικές έννοιες, παρουσιάζουν τις σημαντικότερες θεωρίες στο εκάστοτε πεδίο και παραθέτουν πληθώρα επιστημονικών δεδομένων, ενώ το καθένα περιλαμβάνει και μια ενότητα για τη σύνδεση της θεωρίας με την πράξη ώστε να αποτυπώνεται καθαρότερα η σημασία των γνωστικών διεργασιών τόσο σε εκπαιδευτικά και κλινικά πλαίσια όσο και στην καθημερινότητα.
Το βιβλίο απευθύνεται σε φοιτητές, εκπαιδευτικούς, ψυχολόγους και γενικότερα σε οποιονδήποτε αναζητά ένα εμπεριστατωμένο, εύληπτο και χρηστικό εγχειρίδιο για την επιστήμη της νόησης. Καλύπτοντας με μεθοδικότητα ευρύ φάσμα θεμάτων, θα αποτελέσει έναν απαραίτητο οδηγό που θα διευκολύνει τους αναγνώστες να εμβαθύνουν θεωρητικά και πρακτικά σε ένα από τα συναρπαστικότερα επιστημονικά αντικείμενα: τη λειτουργία του ανθρώπινου νου. Το εγχειρίδιο παρέχει στους αναγνώστες τα εργαλεία και τις γνώσεις που απαιτούνται για την πλοήγηση στην πολυπλοκότητα της ανθρώπινης νόησης, μάθησης και συμπεριφοράς, καθώς και πολύτιμη σύνδεση θεωρίας και πράξης.

Ioulia Papageorgi and Katerina Georgaki
Bridges by Mentors: Bridging Cultures, Empowering Communities, Creating Impact that lasts
Transnational Project Meeting in the Netherlands and Closing Event



Between 2023–2026 the University of Nicosia has been a part of a Consortium engaged in the Bridges by Mentors ERASMUS+ project (Project website: Bridges By Mentors – Bridging Cultures, Empowering Communities, Creating Impact that Lasts!). The project was launched in September 2023, with the goal of empowering international students to mentor local youth, fostering inclusion and intercultural understanding. The project team was led by a strong consortium of six partners from the Netherlands (NHL Stenden University of Applied Sciences), Cyprus (University of Nicosia), Belgium (Howest University of Applied Sciences), France (University of Savoie Mont Blanc), Germany (ACEEU (Accreditation Council for Entrepreneurial and Engaged Universities), and Bulgaria (Big Brothers Big Sisters of Bulgaria). The University of Nicosia (UNIC) is represented by Professor Ioulia Papageorgi and Ms Katerina Georgaki.
Aligning with the aim of Bridges by Mentors, UNIC introduced and implemented three cycles of Mentoring Outreach Programs, where international students as well as local students were trained in mentoring skills and subse-







quently took on the role of mentors to local youth. UNIC's partners in the local community were various organizations including Hope for Children CRC Policy Center (Hope For Children - CRC Policy Center), KENTHEA (ΚΕΝΘΕΑ) and Social Element Centre for Social and Human Development (Social Element – Centre for Social and Human Development – Home). The population of youth with which the mentors worked with included unaccompanied minors, at risk youth and people with disabilities. Through tailored training, interactive activities, supervision and sustained engagement, mentors and mentees were empowered to foster meaningful and lasting human connections.

Human connection and belonging are fundamental human needs that all people are wired to seek and satisfy. This connection, which lays at the core of mentoring, reflects a sense of purpose, meaning and value in life.

Through the three cycles of Mentoring Outreach Programs taking place between May 2025 and June 2026, mentors' ability to comprehend each other's emotions, celebrate triumphs, and provide support during challenging times to youth was used as a priceless tool utilized to bring social change, bridge gaps in society and build stronger communities.

Between 18–21st of May 2026, NHL Stenden hosted the last Transnational Project Meeting, in Leeuwarden, the Netherlands. The Agenda of the meeting involved work around the final steps of the project, examining impact and preparing the finalization of the tools to be shared.

Moreover, on 22nd May the Closing Event of the programme took place at NHL Stenden. During the event, powerful mentoring storytelling was showcased and partners from each country had the opportunity to present the outcomes of the mentoring programs implemented throughout the duration of the Bridges by Mentors project. UNIC was represented by Professor Ioulia Papageorgi and Ms Katerina Georgaki, who presented the activities that took place throughout the project in Cyprus and showcased a video created by mentors with highlights.

With fresh inspiration and a clear direction, the Bridges by Mentors Consortium is excited to continue working in finalizing the tools to share, aiming for stakeholders all over Europe to utilize them and build bridges that will leave a lasting impact!





Το τετραετές προπτυχιακό πρόγραμμα σπουδών στην Ψυχολογία της Σχολής Ανθρωπιστικών Σπουδών και Κοινωνικών Επιστημών του UNIC Athens, της ακαδημαϊκής και ερευνητικής έδρας του Πανεπιστήμιου Λευκωσίας στην Ελλάδα

Το UNIC Athens ξεκίνησε τη λειτουργία του τον Νοέμβριο του 2025, προσφέροντας καινοτόμα προγράμματα σπουδών, έρευνα αιχμής και σύγχρονα τεχνολογικά εργαλεία, με στόχο την εκπαίδευση των επαγγελματιών του μέλλοντος.

Στα προγράμματα σπουδών που ήδη προσφέρονται στην Αθήνα –Ιατρική, Φαρμακευτική, Διοίκηση Επιχειρήσεων και Νομική– περιλαμβάνεται και η **Ψυχολογία (Τμήμα Κοινωνικών Επιστημών, Σχολή Ανθρωπιστικών Σπουδών και Κοινωνικών Επιστημών).** Τα μαθήματα πραγματοποιούνται στις υπερσύγχρονες εγκαταστάσεις του πανεπιστημίου, συνολικής έκτασης 12.500 τ.μ., στον Δήμο Ελληνικού–Αργυρούπολης, σε άμεση γειτνίαση με το The Ellinikon.

Το UNIC Athens εισάγει στην Ελλάδα ένα ακαδημαϊκό πρότυπο υψηλών προδιαγραφών, με έμφαση στην έρευνα αιχμής και στην αξιοποίηση σύγχρονων τεχνολογικών εργαλείων για την παραγωγή καινοτόμου επιστημονικού έργου, με απώτερο στόχο τη βελτίωση της ανθρώπινης ζωής. Ενδεικτική της ποιότητας και της διεθνούς αναγνώρισης του ιδρύματος αποτελεί η κατάταξη του Πανεπιστημίου Λευκωσίας μεταξύ των κορυφαίων πανεπιστημίων παγκοσμίως (θέσεις 501–600), σύμφωνα με την πιο πρόσφατη κατάταξη Times Higher Education World University Rankings (THE WUR) 2026.

Τα καινοτόμα προγράμματα σπουδών του UNIC Athens προετοιμάζουν τους φοιτητές για ρόλους και επαγγέλματα που διαμορφώνονται σε ένα περιβάλλον συνεχούς αλλαγής. Εξειδικευμένα εργαστήρια εκπαίδευσης και επιστημονικής έρευνας, καθώς και αίθουσες μάθησης PBL (Problem-Based Learning), επιτρέπουν στους φοιτητές να αποκτήσουν ουσιαστική πρακτική εμπειρία και να αναπτύξουν δεξιότητες που ανταποκρίνονται στις σύγχρονες απαιτήσεις της αγοράς εργασίας.

Το πρόγραμμα σπουδών στην Ψυχολογία (BSc) παρέχει κλινική άσκηση, πρακτική κατάρτιση και μια σύγχρονη, επιστημονικά τεκμηριωμένη προσέγγιση στη διδασκαλία επίκαιρων ζητημάτων ψυχικής υγείας.

Σταδιακά, το ακαδημαϊκό προφίλ του UNIC Athens θα εμπλουτιστεί με νέα προγράμματα σπουδών σε τομείς αιχμής και υψηλής διεθνούς ζήτησης, προσφέροντας σημαντικές ευκαιρίες απασχόλησης και ανταποκρινόμενο στις σύγχρονες ανάγκες της κοινωνίας, των επιχειρήσεων και της οικονομίας.



ΝΕΟ | Διαπανεπιστημιακό Πρόγραμμα
με το Πανεπιστήμιο Πατρών – Εξ Αποστάσεως
Παιδική και Εφηβική Προστασία | (MSc, 1,5 Έτος)

Σκοπός του Μεταπτυχιακού Προγράμματος Σπουδών (ΜΠΣ) στην Παιδική και Εφηβική Προστασία είναι η η υψηλού επιπέδου εκπαίδευση και η απόκτηση εξειδικευμένων γνώσεων και δεξιοτήτων για τους επαγγελματίες που ασχολούνται με την προστασία παιδιών και εφήβων στις διάφορες σχετικές υπηρεσίες και δομές. Στόχος είναι η ανάπτυξη της ικανότητας παροχής έγκαιρης, αποτελεσματικής και διεπιστημονικής πρόληψης, καθώς και η δυνατότητα παρέμβασης για την αντιμετώπιση φαινομένων και συμπεριφορών που δεν διασφαλίζουν το βέλτιστο συμφέρον του παιδιού.

Ειδικότερα, το συγκεκριμένο ΜΠΣ στοχεύει να αναδείξει την ανάγκη σύγχρονης και διεπιστημονικής εκπαίδευσης σε συγκεκριμένες θεματικές ενότητες ώστε οι εκπαιδευόμενοι να μπορούν να αξιολογήσουν τους κινδύνους και τις παραμέτρους που ‘’απειλούν” την υγιή ανάπτυξη ενός παιδιού.

EVENTS, ACTIVITIES, PUBLICATIONS

ART, DESIGN AND MULTIMEDIA CLUB – EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Poppy Aristidou, Yiannis Hadjipanayis

Throughout the academic year, the Art, Design, and Multimedia Club of the Department of Design and Multimedia organised a series of educational activities that extended student learning beyond the classroom. These included guided visits, workshops, exhibitions, art fairs, and an educational trip abroad, offering students from all programmes, Fine Art, Graphic and Digital Design, and Interactive Media and Animation, direct exposure to contemporary art, design, visual culture, and creative practice.

Guided visit to Larnaca Biennale | November 2025



A Biennale is an international art event, usually held every two years, that showcases contemporary artistic practices through curated exhibitions and public programmes. It brings together artists, curators, institutions, and audiences, encouraging exchange, experimentation, and dialogue. For students, visiting a Biennale offers valuable insight into how contemporary art responds to social, cultural, and visual issues. The Larnaca Biennale visit gave students the opportunity to attend one of the major international





art and cultural events in Cyprus, explore contemporary exhibitions and creative practices, and engage with professional artistic work outside the classroom.

Educational trip to Prague, Czech Republic | February 2026



The Club's annual trip abroad proved once again to be a highly valuable academic and cultural experience, offering many students a unique opportunity to travel and engage with a city they might not otherwise visit. The trip focused on art, design, visual culture, and creative practice, providing perspectives on Prague beyond typical tourism. It also allowed students to explore Prague's relevance to their future academic or professional plans, including further studies, Erasmus exchanges, internships, or work opportunities.

Students visited and engaged with institutions and locations such as the historic centre of Prague, the Museum of Decorative Arts, the Mucha Museum, and the DOX Centre for Contemporary Art. These visits exposed students



to a wide range of artistic practices, from traditional and decorative arts to modern, contemporary, experimental work, street art and immersive digital experiences. This variety strengthened students' critical awareness, visual literacy, and understanding of design within broader social and cultural frameworks

An important part of the trip was the sense of community it encouraged among students and faculty. The experience allowed students to meet new people within the department, interact more closely with faculty members outside the classroom, and build stronger connections across different disciplines. The trip was an inspiring and rewarding opportunity that combined education, creativity, cultural exploration, and collaboration.

Educational printmaking workshop | April 2026

Students participated in a hands-on printmaking workshop at the Hambis Printmaking School and Museum in Platanisteia, led by the renowned Cypriot artist Hambis Tsangaris "Haraktis".

During the workshop, students were introduced to the creative and technical processes of printmaking, including preparation, tracing, carving, lino printing, and experimentation. They developed their own print designs while exploring the relationship between drawing, design, image preparation, and print production. Overall, the





workshop offered a valuable learning experience, allowing students to learn from an established artist, engage with a specialised museum environment, and connect with an important aspect of Cyprus's artistic heritage.

Educational visit to VIMA Art Fair and Eins Gallery | May 2026



The visit to VIMA Art Fair in Limassol was part of a university learning activity focused on contemporary art. VIMA Art Fair presents contemporary art from Cyprus and the Eastern Mediterranean, alongside invited international galleries, fostering artistic exchange and dialogue. During the visit, students explored galleries, curated projects, and exhibitions, including a guided tour. The 2026 edition featured The Waves Crashing, a curatorial project by Kostas Stasinopoulos, with exhibitions, screen-

ings, performances, and talks. Through the fair, students were exposed to the professional context of contemporary art, including the roles of galleries, artists, curators, and audiences.

Following the VIMA Art Fair visit, students visited Eins Gallery, a contemporary art gallery in Limassol established in 2018. There, they viewed the Leonidos Toumpouris exhibition, A disappearing act, an erroneous camouflaging, gaining further insight into contemporary artistic practice in Cyprus. Leonidos Toumpouris is also currently a lecturer in our department.

FINE ART PROGRAMME

Council of the European Union – Cyprus Presidency Exhibition

Agropoetics: Soils/bodies

Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art – SPEL

January–June 2026

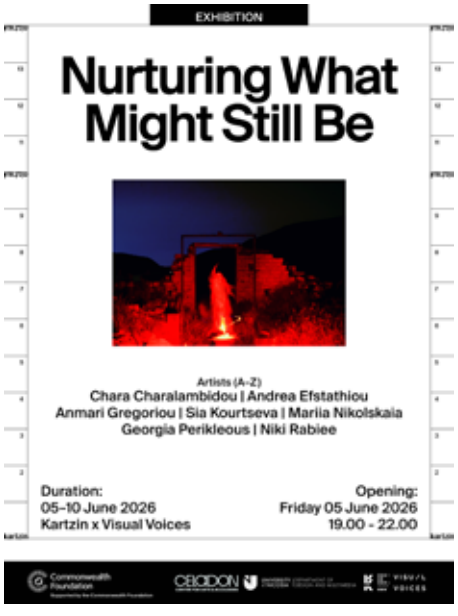


The art exhibition Agropoetics: soils/bodies is curated by Dr Elena Parpa, an adjunct lecturer at the Fine Art programme. The exhibition brings together more than fifty artists from Cyprus, both historical and contemporary, in order to suggest an open reading of the term "landscape" in connection with the related concepts of nature, countryside, land, place, and soil. Among the artists are Constantinos Taliotis, Haris Pellapaisiotis, Melita Couta, Leontios Toumpouris and Eleni Odysseos, who also teach on the Fine Art programme.

Employing what, in art historical terms, has been elaborated as "an ecological eye", the exhibition expands its scope to investigate the multilayered relationship between art and landscape in the practice of Cypriot artists. The term "landscape" is considered in its expanded sense, wherein the experience of geomorphology, geology, light, and nature is intertwined with history and with conceptions of identity and belonging, towards a conception of art in direct relation to the earth.

The title of the exhibition derives from an essay by the Portuguese artist Filipa Cesar and is linked to an interdisciplinary framework for discussing the relationship between humans and nature, focusing on soil as ground for collective resistance. The exhibition at the Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art adopts the term and seeks to engage with the discussion it generates, developing aspects that relate to the Cypriot context.

Nurturing What Might Still Be — 2026 BA Fine Art Degree Show at Kartzin x Visual Voices, 5–10 June 2026



The Fine Art programme, in collaboration with Kartzin x Visual Voices, successfully presented the 2026 BA Fine Art Final Year Exhibition, titled Nurturing What Might Still Be. Drawing on Donna Haraway's concept of kainos from *Staying with Trouble* (2016), the exhibition reflected on notions of new beginnings as ongoing, entangled processes of coexistence, care, and responsibility within more-than-human worlds. The exhibition brought together the graduating cohort of artists (Chara Charalambidou, Andrea Efstathiou, Anmari Gregoriou, Sia Kourtseva,



Mariia Nikolskaia, Georgia Perikleous, and Niki Rabiie) whose practices collectively explored how landscape operates as an active and living field of encounter.

The exhibition proposed landscape as a space of coexistence where human and more-than-human agencies are inseparable, inviting reflection on forms of sympoiesis – collaborative world-making across difference. In this sense, Nurturing What Might Still Be became a proposition for attentiveness and care, suggesting that artistic practice can hold space for uncertainty, repair, and continuity amid ecological and social instability.

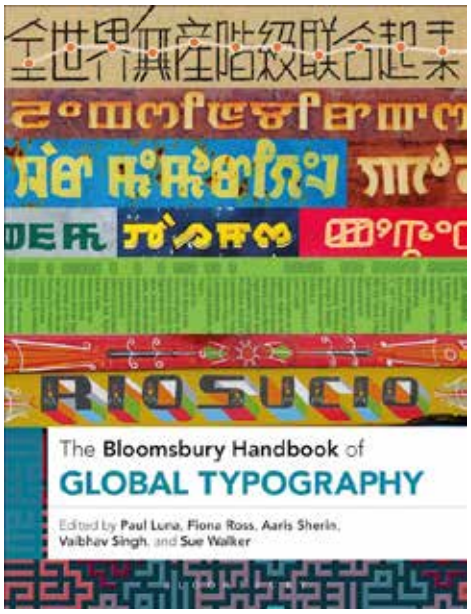
In parallel, the Kartzin Colloquium 2026, organised by Visual Voices, launched its inaugural programme with lectures by Dr Evanthia Tselika and Dr Luiz Guilherme Vergara, followed by responses from Dr Gavriel Koureas and Constantinos Taliotis. The colloquium expanded the exhibition's critical framework, bringing together perspectives from Cyprus and Brazil on socially engaged art, agency, and place-based practices, and reinforcing the exhibition's wider commitment to dialogue, collaboration, and public engagement.

GRAPHIC AND DIGITAL DESIGN PROGRAMME

Dr Niki Sioki
NEW PUBLICATION
The Bloomsbury Handbook of Global Typography
Edited by Paul Luna, Fiona Ross, Aaris Sherin, Vaibhav Singh, Sue Walker
Bloomsbury Publishing, 2026, pp.528, ISBN: 9781350336384

This new handbook takes the broadest possible view of typography, defining it as "design for reading". It considers all kinds of reading matter and visual communication systems: digital, environmental, printed, and hand-produced.

By offering a rich collection of texts that are genuinely international in authorship and in scope, it seeks to rebalance the Western bias of so many books on the subject. It gives space to new voices and emerging standpoints on the global nature of design, the needs of particular communities of readers, and the importance of inclusivity and historical understanding in design practice and research.



Niki Sioki has co-authored with M. C. Dyson and Mila Waldeck the chapter entitled: "Some influences on legibility: Who or what has changed notions of legibility through time?". It offers a different perspective on what makes print legible from the early nineteenth century to the present day. Drawing on her long-standing research on the morphology of Greek schoolbooks, Sioki provides a historical background to the legibility of Greek typography for learning to read that still lacks the necessary empirical research developed around Latin scripts. Overall, the edition's forty-three contributors demonstrate the interdisciplinary range of research in typography today, exemplifying the relationship between history, theory, and practice that is at the heart of the discipline.

For more information: https://www.bloomsbury.com/uk/bloomsbury-handbook-of-global-typography-9781350336384/

Dr Niki Sioki
Erasmus+ mobility: Invited speaker
UX Design workshop: The 5-minute product
A two-day workshop led by Yorgos Vourlidas, Lead Product Designer at Deutsche Bank AG, Berlin, 8–9 May 2026

Following a successful Erasmus+ mobility application, Yorgos Vourlidas, a Lead Product Designer at Deutsche Bank AG (Berlin), visited the Department of Design and Multimedia. He delivered an intensive, hands-on workshop that challenged students to design and develop a



digital product within a short, focused timeframe simulating the fast-paced environment of real-world design teams. Working under the guidance of an experienced UX professional, students gained insight into how digital products are conceived, structured, and refined in large international public organisations.



During the workshop, students:
Applied user-centred design methods in a practical setting; Experienced key stages of the UX process from idea to prototype; Collaborated, tested ideas, and iterated quickly; Received professional feedback on their design decisions; Strengthened their problem-solving and conceptual thinking skills.

On the last day of the workshop, students presented their designed digital prototypes, received constructive feedback and shared their ideas for future developments.

The mobility strengthened the department's networking with the industry. Lecturers were informed about emerging challenges in the market, evolving industry standards and market's expectations from young graduates.

Professor Klimis Mastoridis

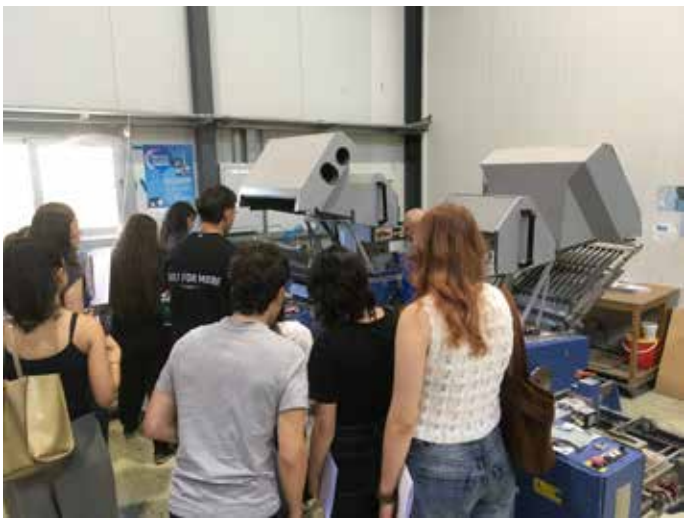
Visit to Laser Graphics Offset Printing House | 8 June 2026



As part of their Production Methods for Graphic Design course, second-year Graphic and Digital Design students visited Laser Graphics Ltd, a fine quality offset printing house based in Nicosia. This visit gave them an invaluable opportunity to observe professional printing processes and equipment firsthand, gaining direct exposure to the realities of commercial print production.

Engaging with an active printing environment enables students to develop a deeper understanding of the production stages essential to all designers – prepress, press and finishing. On site, we discussed colour reproduction and printing inks, plate making, paper stock, press mechanics, binding techniques and much more, moving students beyond the theoretical frameworks encountered in the classroom. As any professional designer will attest, design is not solely about the design itself – production is an equally essential part of the process.

Witnessing the offset printing process in action encourages close observation and critical thinking, revealing



the technical precision and craft decisions that underpin every printed piece and fostering an appreciation of print as both an industrial and creative practice.

The visit formed the basis of a structured learning experience in which students were encouraged to ask questions, discuss and analyse the relationship between design decisions and their printed outcomes within a professional context.

Through this process, they gained practical insight into the production chain of visual communication, while strengthening their technical awareness and industry readiness. Our warmest thanks go to Panicos, Angela and the entire team at Laser Graphics for their generous welcome and another truly enlightening session, as well as to Milos, Pambos, Yiota, Nakis and all their colleagues who made the visit so memorable. We also extend our best wishes go to Maria and Eleni. The pies and juices were, once again, very much appreciated. Until next year!

Professor Klimis Mastoridis

Beyond tools and AI. What it means to study Graphic Design today



In the links below you can find a thought-provoking article on the state of graphic design education in the age of artificial intelligence, titled 'Beyond tools and AI. What it means to study Graphic Design today'.

Drawing on the honorary doctorates recently awarded by the SHSS to design luminaries Neville Brody and Hambis Tsangaris, the piece challenges the growing tendency of university programmes to prioritise technical software training over critical and creative thinking. Mastoridis argues that as AI rapidly automates routine design tasks, what truly distinguishes a capable designer is not tool proficiency but the ability to think, communicate across disciplines, and take responsibility for their work.

Far from sounding the alarm, the article offers an optimistic vision: students trained to think –not just produce– are better positioned than ever to thrive in a changing profession. A timely and essential read for students, parents, and educators alike.

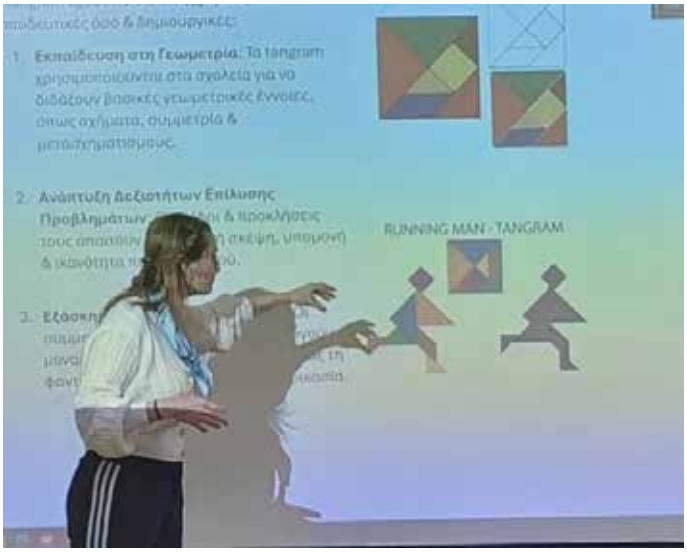
In Greek: access via the websites of Academia.edu and Παιδεία–News

In English: https://www.academia.edu/167680319/Beyond_tools_and_AI_What_it_means_to_study_Graphic_Design_today

INTERACTIVE MEDIA AND ANIMATION PROGRAMME

Dr Maria Christoforou

Erasmus Mobility 23–24 March 2026, University of the Aegean, Mytilene, Department of Cultural Technology and Communication



Dr Maria Christoforou was invited through the Erasmus+ mobility programme to visit the Department of Cultural Technology and Communication at the University of the Aegean by Dr Angeliki Kitsiou, Assistant Professor of Sociology of the Internet, and Dr Evangelia Kavakli, Professor of Information Systems.

During her visit, Dr Christoforou led a workshop and delivered a presentation that integrated storytelling with tangram shapes, providing participants with a hands-on method to explore their identities through metaphorical art.

The workshop enabled students to create their own tangram compositions based on identity, emotions, or a personal message. They chose meaningful shapes and turned them into visual stories. Each design included a short poem, a haiku, a slogan, or a message. This activity encouraged imagination, collaboration, and reflection, helping participants connect mathematics, art, and personal expression in an engaging way. The workshop combined intercultural learning with hands-on creativity and demonstrated how a simple traditional puzzle can become a powerful educational and artistic tool. The University of the Aegean students responded warmly and participated actively.

Dr Christoforou also delivered a presentation entitled "Tangram: An Exploration of Shapes and Meanings" which examined the educational, creative, and cultural value of tangrams. The presentation highlighted how tangrams support learning in geometry, spatial awareness,

problem-solving, and creativity, while also demonstrated tangram's connection to storytelling and symbolic expression in Chinese culture. Dr Christoforou explained how tangrams can contribute to both IQ and EQ development, as they foster logical thinking, patience, self-expression, and respect for diverse perspectives.

Dr Maria Christoforou
NEOLAiA Blended Intensive Programme (BIP), 'Common Accreditation Certificate for Plurilingual Education (CoACe): Empowering Academics to Teach through EMI', coordinated by the University of Jaén, June 2026



Dr Maria Christoforou, Assistant Professor in the Department of Design and Multimedia and Dr Chloe Antoniou, Associate Professor in Biochemistry at the Medical School, recently participated in the Blended Intensive Programme (BIP), 'Common Accreditation Certificate for Plurilingual Education (CoACe): Empowering Academics to Teach through EMI', coordinated by the University of Jaén.

Developed by the NEOLAiA European University Alliance and delivered from April to June 2026, the programme brought together university educators committed to enhancing their teaching practices in English-Medium Instruction (EMI) and multilingual education.



As a Blended Intensive Programme, the course combined five webinars with a week of onsite seminars at the University of Jaén, Spain. Participants explored topics such as plurilingual education, communication skills, innovative teaching methodologies, student-centred learning approaches, digital tools, inclusive teaching strategies, and assessment in higher education.

Dr Antroulla Papakyriakou, Associate Professor in the Department of Languages and Literature, contributed to the design and delivery of the programme, highlighting the University's active role in the NEOLAiA European University Alliance.

Dr Chloe Antoniou (left) with Dr Antroulla Papakyriakou (centre) and Dr Maria Christoforou (right), during the onsite week of the NEOLAiA Blended Intensive Programme at the University of Jaén, Spain.



UNIVERSITY OF NICOSIA DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS SEMINAR EXPLORES THE FUTURE OF JOURNALISM THROUGH IMMERSIVE TECHNOLOGY





The Department of Communications at the University of Nicosia successfully hosted the seminar "Reimagining Journalism Through Immersive Technology" on Thursday, 14 May 2026, at the UNESCO Amphitheatre, University of Nicosia.

The event, held with the support of the EU-funded iStream project, brought together students, journalists, educators, researchers and other stakeholders to discuss how immersive technologies are reshaping journalism, public-interest media and the future of news.

The seminar examined how technologies such as VR, XR, AR, smart glasses and artificial intelligence can open new possibilities for storytelling, civic explanation, public understanding and journalism education. Discussions focused on the potential of immersive journalism to respond to key challenges facing news media today, including platform dependency, audience fragmentation, disinformation and the need for more meaningful forms of public engagement.

The programme included presentations by Professor Nicholas Nicoli, Associate Head of the Department of Communication, University of Nicosia; Professor Harald Rau, Research Professor of Communication Management at Ostfalia University of Applied Sciences; Professor Soulla Louca, Head of the Department of Digital Innovation, University of Nicosia; and Dr Ioanna Georgia Eskiadi, Researcher in Emerging Media Technologies at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki.

A panel discussion followed, offering participants the opportunity to reflect on the future of immersive journalism and its role in media education, professional practice and public-interest communication.

Dr Nicos Philippou, Head of the Department of Communication at the University of Nicosia, said: "The success of this seminar demonstrates the importance of bringing together students, journalists, educators and stakeholders to discuss the future of journalism. Immersive technologies create new possibilities for how news can be experienced, explained and understood, and our Department is committed to engaging critically and creatively with these developments."

Professor Ioulia Papageorgi, Dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, said: "This event reflects the School's commitment to research, innovation and public engagement. By examining immersive journalism and emerging technologies, the seminar created a valuable space for dialogue on how media education can respond to the changing needs of society and the future of communication."

The seminar was supported by iStream – Higher Education programmes on Immersive Journalism approach, an Erasmus+ Cooperation Partnership in Higher Education that aims to modernise journalism education through immersive technologies and reduce the skills gap in the media and communication sectors. More information about the project is available at www.istream-project.eu.

- The Department of Communications at the University of Nicosia prepares students for careers in media, journalism, public relations, advertising, digital communication, social media management and related fields, combining academic knowledge with professional skills, research, creativity and engagement with contemporary developments in the communication sector.

- The School of Humanities and Social Sciences at the University of Nicosia brings together disciplines that explore society, culture, communication, education, language and human behaviour, supporting interdisciplinary teaching, research and public engagement.

- iStream – Higher Education programmes on Immersive Journalism approach is an EU-funded Erasmus+ Cooperation Partnership in Higher Education that aims to modernise journalism education through immersive technologies and reduce the skills gap in the media and communication sectors. More information is available at www.istream-project.eu.



Σεμινάριο του Τμήματος Επικοινωνίας του Πανεπιστημίου Λευκωσίας για το μέλλον της δημοσιογραφίας μέσα από τις εμβυθιστικές τεχνολογίες

Το Τμήμα Επικοινωνίας του Πανεπιστημίου Λευκωσίας πραγματοποίησε με μεγάλη επιτυχία το σεμινάριο «Reimagining Journalism Through Immersive Technology» την Πέμπτη, 14 Μαΐου 2026, στο Αμφιθέατρο UNESCO του Πανεπιστημίου Λευκωσίας.

Η εκδήλωση, η οποία πραγματοποιήθηκε με την υποστήριξη του συγχρηματοδοτούμενου από την Ευρωπαϊκή Ένωση έργου iStream, συγκέντρωσε φοιτητές, δημοσιογράφους, εκπαιδευτικούς, ερευνητές και άλλους ενδιαφερόμενους φορείς, με στόχο τη συζήτηση γύρω από τον τρόπο με τον οποίο οι εμβυθιστικές τεχνολογίες επαναπροσδιορίζουν τη δημοσιογραφία, τα μέσα ενημέρωσης δημόσιου συμφέροντος και το μέλλον της ενημέρωσης.

Το σεμινάριο εξέτασε πώς τεχνολογίες όπως η εικονική πραγματικότητα (VR), η εκτεταμένη πραγματικότητα (XR), η επαυξημένη πραγματικότητα (AR), τα έξυπνα γυαλιά και η τεχνητή νοημοσύνη μπορούν να δημιουργήσουν νέες δυνατότητες για την αφήγηση, την επεξήγηση σύνθετων κοινωνικών ζητημάτων, τη δημόσια κατανόηση και την εκπαίδευση στη δημοσιογραφία. Οι συζητήσεις επικεντρώθηκαν στις δυνατότητες της εμβυθιστικής δημοσιογραφίας να ανταποκριθεί σε βασικές προκλήσεις που αντιμετωπίζουν σήμερα τα μέσα ενημέρωσης, όπως η εξάρτηση από τις ψηφιακές πλατφόρμες, ο κατακερματισμός του κοινού, η παραπληροφόρηση και η ανάγκη για πιο ουσιαστικές μορφές δημόσιας συμμετοχής.

Το πρόγραμμα περιλάμβανε παρουσιάσεις από τον Καθηγητή Νικόλα Νικολή, Αναπληρωτή Επικεφαλής του Τμήματος Επικοινωνίας του Πανεπιστημίου Λευκωσίας· τον Professor Harald Rau, Research Professor of Communication Management στο Ostfalia University of Applied Sciences· την Καθηγήτρια Σούλλα Λουκά, Επικεφαλής του Τμήματος Digital Innovation του Πανεπιστημίου Λευκωσίας· και τη Δρα Ιωάννα Γεωργία Εσκιάδη, ερευνήτρια στις αναδυόμενες τεχνολογίες μέσων στη Σχολή Δημοσιογραφίας και Μέσων Μαζικής Επικοινωνίας του Αριστοτελείου Πανεπιστημίου Θεσσαλονίκης.

Ακολούθησε πάνελ συζήτησης, δίνοντας στους συμμετέχοντες την ευκαιρία να προβληματιστούν γύρω από το μέλλον της εμβυθιστικής δημοσιογραφίας και τον ρόλο της στην εκπαίδευση στα μέσα ενημέρωσης, την επαγγελματική πρακτική και την επικοινωνία δημόσιου συμφέροντος.

Ο Δρ Νίκος Φιλίππου, Επικεφαλής του Τμήματος Επικοινωνίας του Πανεπιστημίου Λευκωσίας, ανέφερε: «Η επιτυχία αυτού του σεμιναρίου αναδεικνύει τη σημασία της συνάντησης φοιτητών, δημοσιογράφων, εκπαιδευτικών και ενδιαφερόμενων φορέων για τη συζήτηση γύρω από το μέλλον της δημοσιογραφίας. Οι εμβυθιστικές τεχνολογίες δημιουργούν νέες δυνατότητες για το πώς η είδηση μπορεί να βιώνεται, να εξηγείται και να γίνεται κατανοητή, και το Τμήμα μας παραμένει προσηλωμένο στην κριτική και δημιουργική ενασχόληση με αυτές τις εξελίξεις».

Η Καθηγήτρια Ιουλία Παπαγεώργη, Κοσμήτορας της Σχολής Ανθρωπιστικών Σπουδών και Κοινωνικών Επιστημών, ανέφερε: «Η εκδήλωση αυτή αντανακλά τη δέσμευση της Σχολής στην έρευνα, την καινοτομία και τη δημόσια συμμετοχή. Εξετάζοντας την εμβυθιστική δημοσιογραφία και τις αναδυόμενες τεχνολογίες, το σεμινάριο δημιούργησε έναν πολύτιμο χώρο διαλόγου για το πώς η εκπαίδευση στα μέσα ενημέρωσης μπορεί να ανταποκριθεί στις μεταβαλλόμενες ανάγκες της κοινωνίας και στο μέλλον της επικοινωνίας».









Το σεμινάριο υποστηρίχθηκε από το iStream – Higher Education programmes on Immersive Journalism approach, ένα έργο Erasmus+ Cooperation Partnership in Higher Education, συγχρηματοδοτούμενο από την Ευρωπαϊκή Ένωση, το οποίο στοχεύει στον εκσυγχρονισμό της δημοσιογραφικής εκπαίδευσης μέσω των εμβυθιστικών τεχνολογιών και στη μείωση του χάσματος δεξιοτήτων στους τομείς των μέσων ενημέρωσης και της επικοινωνίας. Περισσότερες πληροφορίες για το έργο είναι διαθέσιμες στην ιστοσελίδα www.istream-project.eu.

• Το Τμήμα Επικοινωνίας του Πανεπιστημίου Λευκωσίας προετοιμάζει φοιτητές για σταδιοδρομία στα μέσα ενημέρωσης, τη δημοσιογραφία, τις δημόσιες σχέσεις, τη διαφήμιση, την ψηφιακή επικοινωνία, τη διαχείριση κοινωνικών μέσων και συναφείς τομείς, συνδυάζοντας ακαδημαϊκή γνώση, επαγγελματικές δεξιότητες, έρευνα, δημιουργικότητα και ενεργή ενασχόληση με τις σύγχρονες εξελίξεις στον κλάδο της επικοινωνίας.

• Η Σχολή Ανθρωπιστικών Σπουδών και Κοινωνικών Επιστημών του Πανεπιστημίου Λευκωσίας φέρνει κοντά επιστημονικά πεδία που εξετάζουν την κοινωνία, τον πολιτισμό, την επικοινωνία, την εκπαίδευση, τη γλώσσα και την ανθρώπινη συμπεριφορά, υποστηρίζοντας τη διεπιστημονική διδασκαλία, την έρευνα και τη δημόσια συμμετοχή.

• Το iStream – Higher Education programmes on Immersive Journalism approach είναι ένα έργο Erasmus+ Cooperation Partnership in Higher Education, συγχρηματοδοτούμενο από την Ευρωπαϊκή Ένωση, το οποίο στοχεύει στον εκσυγχρονισμό της δημοσιογραφικής εκπαίδευσης μέσω των εμβυθιστικών τεχνολογιών και στη μείωση του χάσματος δεξιοτήτων στους τομείς των μέσων ενημέρωσης και της επικοινωνίας. Περισσότερες πληροφορίες είναι διαθέσιμες στην ιστοσελίδα www.istream-project.eu.



Τελετή Αποφοίτησης της Σχολής Ανθρωπιστικών Σπουδών και Κοινωνικών Επιστημών 2025–2026

Υφυπουργός Κοινωνικής Πρόνοιας: «Καμία διάκριση, καμία επιτυχία δεν μετρά αν δεν την έχεις κατακτήσει με ακεραιότητα, ήθος, σεβασμό […] και σκληρή δουλειά»



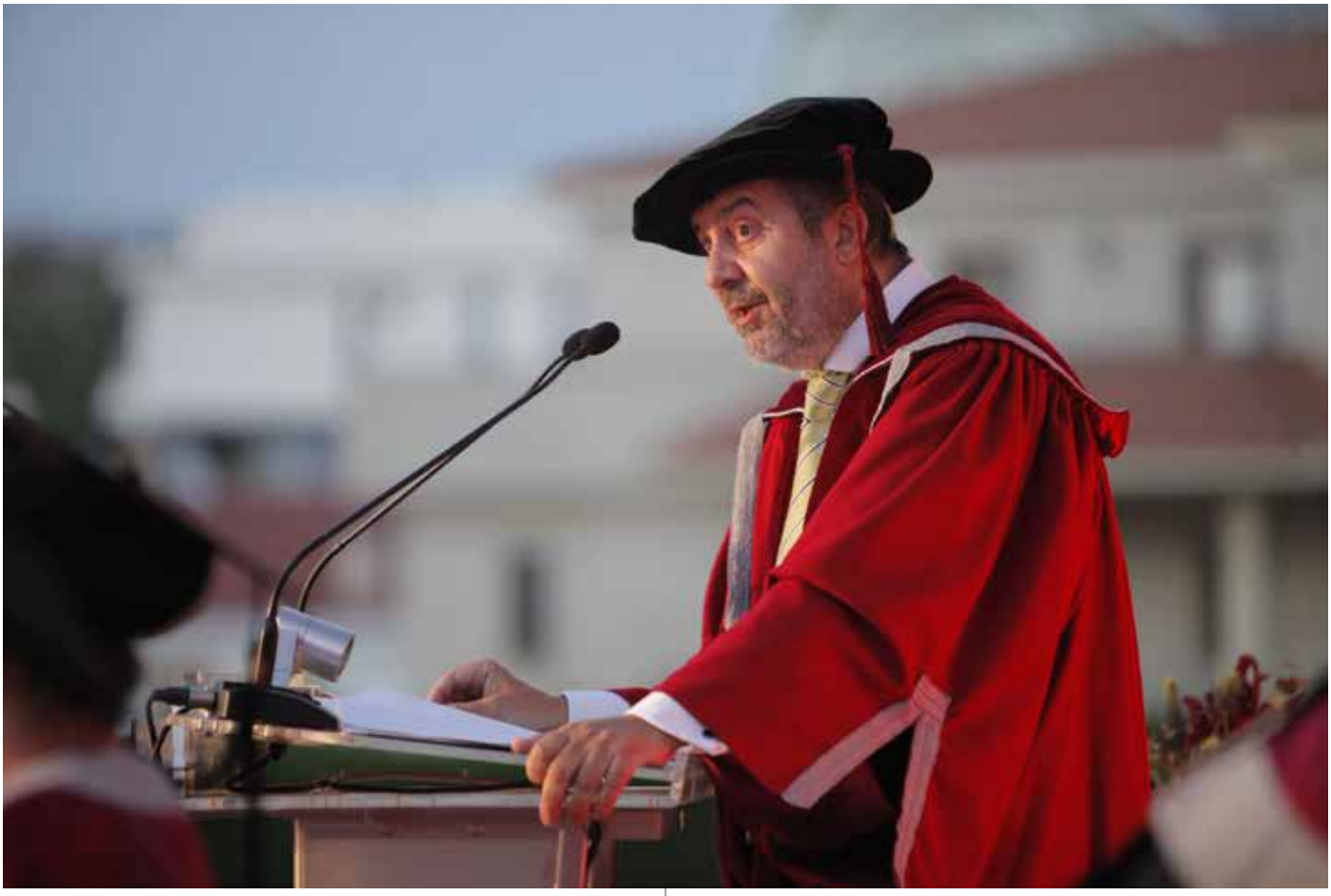
Η γνώση, η υπευθυνότητα και η κοινωνική προσφορά στο επίκεντρο της Τελετής Αποφοίτησης της Σχολής Ανθρωπιστικών Σπουδών και Κοινωνικών Επιστημών του Πανεπιστημίου Λευκωσίας

Το Πανεπιστήμιο Λευκωσίας τίμησε στις 26 Ιουνίου 2026 τους αποφοίτους και τις απόφοιτες της Σχολής Ανθρωπιστικών Σπουδών και Κοινωνικών Επιστημών, σε μια τελετή που ανέδειξε τη σημασία της γνώσης, της κοινωνικής προσφοράς και της δημιουργικής συμμετοχής των νέων στη σύγχρονη κοινωνία.

Στην τελετή παρευρέθηκαν και απηύθυναν χαιρετισμό η Υφυπουργός Κοινωνικής Πρόνοιας, Δρ Κλέα Χατζηστεφάνου Παπαέλληνα, ο Πρύτανης του Πανεπιστημίου Λευκωσίας, Καθηγητής Φίλιππος Πουγιούτας, η Κοσμήτορας της Σχολής Ανθρωπιστικών Σπουδών και Κοινωνικών Επιστημών, Καθηγήτρια Ιουλία Παπαγεώργη, καθώς και η επίτιμη προσκεκλημένη της τελετής, Συνιδρύτρια και Εκτελεστική Διευθύντρια του Sistema Cyprus, Δρ Νικολέττα Πολυδώρου.

Στον χαιρετισμό της, η Υφυπουργός Κοινωνικής Πρόνοιας, Δρ Κλέα Χατζηστεφάνου Παπαέλληνα, αναφέρθηκε στις αρχές της φιλίας, της αριστείας, καθώς επίσης και στο «εύ αγωνίζεσθαι». Με συγκίνηση δήλωσε πως «καμία διάκριση, καμία επιτυχία δεν μετρά αν δεν την έχεις κατακτήσει με ακεραιότητα, ήθος, σεβασμό […] και σκληρή δουλειά», ενώ τόνισε τη σημαντικότητα των Ανθρωπιστικών Σπουδών αναφέροντας χαρακτηριστικά: «Ως πολιτεία αναγνωρίζουμε ότι η επένδυση στους νέους ανθρώπους αποτελεί επένδυση στο μέλλον της χώρας. Η κοινωνία έχει ανάγκη από νέους ανθρώπους που θα υπηρετούν τον άνθρωπο με ευαισθησία και υπευθυνότητα, αλλά και από πολίτες που θα συμμετέχουν ενεργά στη διαμόρφωση ενός καλύτερου μέλλοντος».

Ολοκλήρωσε τον χαιρετισμό της εξαίροντας το έργο του



Πανεπιστημίου Λευκωσίας και εκφράζοντας την υπερηφάνειά της για τη στενή συνεργασία του Υφυπουργείου Κοινωνικής Πρόνοιας με το Πανεπιστήμιο, ιδίως σε θέματα παιδικής προστασίας και ενεργού γήρανσης.

Στη δική του ομιλία, ο Πρύτανης του Πανεπιστημίου Λευκωσίας, Καθηγητής Φίλιππος Πουγιούτας, συνεχάρη τις απόφοιτες και τους αποφοίτους για την επιτυχή ολοκλήρωση των σπουδών τους και αναφέρθηκε στη σημασία της προσήλωσής τους στη γνώση, στο διάβασμα και στους κόπους τους. Στην ομιλία του ανέδειξε, επίσης, τη διεθνή ανάπτυξη και ακαδημαϊκή καταξίωση του Πανεπιστημίου Λευκωσίας, επισημαίνοντας ότι συγκαταλέγεται στο 2% των κορυφαίων πανεπιστημίων διεθνώς, με σημαντικές διακρίσεις στις διεθνείς κατατάξεις, ιδιαίτερα στον τομέα της ποιότητας της έρευνας. Παράλληλα, στάθηκε στη διεύρυνση των διεθνών συνεργασιών του Πανεπιστημίου, στα διαπανεπιστημιακά προγράμματα σπουδών με κορυφαία ευρωπαϊκά πανεπιστήμια, καθώς και στην ενίσχυση της παρουσίας του στο εξωτερικό και στην Ελλάδα, με το UNIC Athens. Τέλος εστίασε και στη συμμετοχή του Πανεπιστημίου στην συμμαχία ευρωπαϊκών πανεπιστημίων NEOLAiA και τη δημιουργία ενός καινοτόμου πανεπιστημιακού δικτύου με πανεπιστημιουπόλεις σε εννέα χώρες.

Απευθυνόμενος στις απόφοιτες και αποφοίτους της Σχολής και, αφού τους ευχαρίστησε θερμά για τη συνεισφορά τους στις επιτυχίες του Πανεπιστημίου, ο Πρύτανης Πουγιούτας ανέφερε: «Στο εγγύς μέλλον, ο κόσμος μας θα μοιάζει με επιστημονική φαντασία. Τα ευφυή ολογράμματα θα ενσωματωθούν στον χώρο εργασίας, στους χώρους ψυχαγωγίας και γενικά στα κοινωνικά περιβάλλοντά μας, διευκολύνοντας την επικοινωνία μεταξύ των ανθρώπων και εφαρμογών της Τεχνητής Νοημοσύνης και της Επαυξημένης Πραγματικότητας. Σε αυτόν τον νέο κόσμο, η πρόκληση της διατήρησης της ανθρώπινης φύσης μας, αντιμετωπίζοντας υπαρξιακά, ηθικά, κοινωνιολογικά, νομικά, φιλοσοφικά και άλλα διλήμματα, θα είναι δύσκολη. Να θυμάστε ότι οι Ανθρωπιστικές Σπουδές και οι Κοινωνικές Επιστήμες ήταν πάντα στην πρώτη γραμμή της κοινωνικής αλλαγής. Να είστε, λοιπόν, έτοιμοι να κατανοήσετε αυτόν τον νέο κόσμο, να μας βοηθήσετε όλους να προσαρμοζόμαστε συνεχώς καθώς εξελίσσεται και να αναπτύξετε το ηθικό πλαίσιο που θα διασφαλίσει ότι θα παραμείνουμε ανθρώπινοι».

Ακολούθησε η παρουσίαση του τιμώμενου Καθηγητή Κλήμη Μαστορίδη από την Κοσμήτορα της Σχολής Ανθρωπιστικών Σπουδών και Κοινωνικών Επιστημών του Πανεπιστημίου Λευκωσίας, Καθηγήτρια Ιουλία Παπαγεώργη. Η Καθηγήτρια Παπαγεώργη αναφέρθηκε στη μακρά και ουσιαστική ακαδημαϊκή πορεία του Καθηγητή Μαστορίδη, καθώς και στη σημαντική συμβολή του στη Σχολή και στο Πανεπιστήμιο Λευκωσίας. Ο Καθηγητής Μαστορίδης διετέλεσε Κοσμήτορας της Σχολής Ανθρωπιστικών Σπουδών και Κοινωνικών Επιστημών κατά την περίοδο 2020–2026 και αναγορεύθηκε σε Ομότιμο Καθηγητή της Σχολής.

Στη δική της ομιλία, η Κοσμήτορας Παπαγεώργη αναφέρθηκε ξεχωριστά στους αποφοίτους των επιμέρους κλάδων της Σχολής, τονίζοντας τη σημασία της προσφοράς τους







στην κοινωνία. Επισήμανε ότι η Αρχιτεκτονική πρέπει να υπηρετεί τον άνθρωπο, η Επικοινωνία να βασίζεται στην αλήθεια και την αυθεντικότητα, ο Σχεδιασμός και τα Πολυμέσα να έχουν ουσιαστικό σκοπό, οι Γλώσσες και η Λογοτεχνία να ερμηνεύουν τον κόσμο με κατανόηση, οι Κοινωνικές Επιστήμες να παραμείνουν αφοσιωμένες στην κοινωνική προσφορά και η Θεολογία να καθοδηγεί τον άνθρωπο.

Ιδιαίτερη έμφαση έδωσε στις προκλήσεις και τις ευκαιρίες που δημιουργεί η τεχνητή νοημοσύνη, σημειώνοντας ότι οι Ανθρωπιστικές και Κοινωνικές Επιστήμες παραμένουν ιδιαίτερα σημαντικές, καθώς καλλιεργούν την κριτική σκέψη, την ηθική κρίση, την πολιτισμική κατανόηση και τη συναισθηματική νοημοσύνη. Τέλος, η Κοσμήτορας της Σχολής κάλεσε τους αποφοίτους να μη σταματούν ποτέ να μαθαίνουν, να μην φοβούνται να θέτουν δύσκολες ερωτήσεις και να αναζητούν ουσιαστικές απαντήσεις.

Χαιρετισμό απηύθυνε και η επίτιμη προσκεκλημένη της τελετής, Συνιδρύτρια και Εκτελεστική Διευθύντρια του Sistema Cyprus, Δρ Νικολέττα Πολυδώρου, η οποία μοιράστηκε προσωπικές εμπειρίες και ιστορίες παιδιών και νέων που σημάδεψαν την πορεία της, αναδεικνύοντας τη δύναμη της εμπιστοσύνης, της ανθεκτικότητας και της πίστης στις δυνατότητες κάθε ανθρώπου. Αναφέρθηκε στα πρώτα της βήματα ως εκπαιδευτικός, όταν συνειδητοποίησε ότι το ουσιαστικό ερώτημα δεν ήταν πώς θα διδάξει τα παιδιά,













αλλά πώς θα κερδίσει την εμπιστοσύνη τους. Μέσα από τις ιστορίες νέων που συνδέθηκαν με το Sistema Cyprus και κατάφεραν να προχωρήσουν παρά τις δυσκολίες, υπογράμμισε ότι η επιτυχία δεν μετριέται πάντα με την ταχύτητα, αλλά με την επιμονή και με όσα αρνείται κανείς να εγκαταλείψει στην πορεία.

Τέλος, χαιρετισμό στην τελετή απηύθυναν και οι αριστούχοι απόφοιτοι της Σχολής.

Η τελετή ολοκληρώθηκε με την επικύρωση των τίτλων σπουδών από τον Πρύτανη του Πανεπιστημίου Λευκωσίας, Καθηγητή Φίλιππο Πουγιούτα και τον Ανώτερο Αντιπρύτανη, Καθηγητή Κωνσταντίνο Α. Φελλά. Την τελετή παρακολούθησαν πλήθος προσκεκλημένων, γονείς και συγγενείς των αποφοίτων. Η κοινότητα του Πανεπιστημίου Λευκωσίας εύχεται στους αποφοίτους καλή σταδιοδρομία και κάθε επιτυχία στη συνέχεια της πορείας τους.





University of Nicosia ranks among the Top Universities worldwide in six Subject Areas in 2026

Business and Economics, Education Studies, **Psychology**, **Social Sciences**, Medical and Health and Life Sciences. The University of Nicosia (UNIC) achieves top rankings globally in the 2026 Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings by Subject, with notable results across six subject areas.

The results position UNIC among leading universities globally and within the European Union:
#38 in the European Union, and among the 176-200 Top universities in the world for Business and Economics
#66 in the European Union, and among the 301-400 Top universities in the world for Education Studies

#86 in the European Union, and among the 301-400 Top universities in the world for Psychology

#104 in the European Union, and among the 401-500 Top universities in the world for Social Sciences

#140 in the European Union, and among the 501-600 Top universities in the world for Medical and Health
#163 in the European Union, and among the 601-800 Top universities in the world for Life Sciences.

"These are truly outstanding results. Our university has been recognised as one of the leading universities in the world in six specific areas. This important distinction for our individual schools and for the university overall reflects our strong performance in teaching, learning, research, innovation and societal contribution" noted Professor Philippos Pouyioutas, Rector of the University. "I extend my sincere congratulations and gratitude to the entire UNIC community, including our academic and administrative staff, as well as our students and alumni. The contribution of our Master's and Doctoral students, particularly in research, has been especially significant for this achievement", concluded Rector Pouyioutas.

Also commenting on the results, Professor Dimitris Drikakis, Vice President for Global Partnerships at the University of Nicosia (UNIC), highlighted the University's exceptional performance. "UNIC's performance in the THE Subject Rankings 2026 demonstrates sustained academic rigour and increasing research productivity across a broad disciplinary base. This year, UNIC is ranked in six subject areas confirming both depth and diversification of impact. Notably, UNIC is the only university in Cyprus ranked in Life Sciences, underscoring the maturation of our research ecosystem in strategically important domains. Across Cyprus, UNIC holds 1st place in Business and Economics and shares 1st place in Education Studies, Psychology, and Social Sciences, while also strengthening its comparative standing across Cyprus and Greece and within the European Union. These results reflect our commitment to research excellence, international collaboration, and a dynamic educational environment that contributes meaningfully to the global academic community", he noted.

The Times Higher Education World University Rankings (THE WUR) is possibly the most influential university classification system globally, drawing on five decades of expertise in the sector and millions of individual data points.

These subject rankings are the latest in a succession of distinctions bestowed on UNIC by Times Higher Education, which notably includes ranking the University among the Top 501-600 universities worldwide in its flagship World University Rankings for 2026.

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